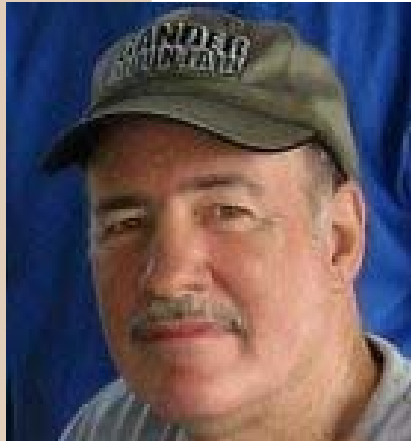


Spark Gap

Volume 27, Issue 4, April 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Six Years*

Renewing Your FCC License



From the President:

We all have this

happen every ten years. It's time to renew your amateur radio license. I was aware my time was coming in June. However, in February I got a very scary, official appearing packet announcing in bold letters "Amateur Radio

License Expiration Alert" and "Renewal Notice Enclosed". Also prominently displayed was "Failure to renew your Amateur license will void your operating authority and could result in the necessity for you to be re-examined and the loss of your station call sign." WOW! This was from the W5YI VEC, group asking to take care of this painful, time consuming task for me for the reasonable price of \$7.00, or \$23.40 for a vanity call sign renewal. A week or so later, I received a similar notification from the American Radio Relay League, of which I am a member. This was not nearly as dramatic or scary looking, more like normal ARRL correspondence. Their renewal service for non-vanity calls is free for members. If a vanity call is involved, the fee is \$18.40.

Being a vintage (cheap) ham operator, I knew doing something myself is always less expensive. Well, unless I mess it up and it has to be corrected by a professional, but I digress. License renewals can be handled up to 90 days prior to expiration directly to the FCC by mail or on the FCC Universal Licensing System. You do not need to go

through a third party unless you are willing to pay to avoid the inconvenience. It is not as difficult as W5YI would like you to believe. The ARRL has a great service for members, but you still have to pay a \$5 handling fee to process your vanity payment. I opted to save the five bucks, that could pay for a couple of PL-259's.

If you are as frugal as I am, here is how you do it yourself and save from five to seven bucks. First you need your FRN number. The easiest place to look this up is at the ARRL web site and use the call sign search. Once you have that you can renew online. Go to the FCC Universal Licensing System home page, and select "Online Filing", and follow the instructions. It is really not difficult. If you have a vanity call, you will need to provide a credit card number to charge the \$13.40 vanity fee. A standard renewal is free. Other options are to renew by mail by filling out a form 605 and sending it directly to the FCC. You may also renew for free when you upgrade your license, or if you are an ARRL member you can renew for free at any ARRL VE test session by filling out a form NCVEC 605 (with proof of membership). These convenience fees are low, but free is better. Steve K9DY, President

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Super Bowl

Attending a Colts game at Lucas Oil stadium can be an exciting experience. The great game doesn't happen without flawless communications between the coaches, players and even the sideline officials. Even the TV networks determine when officials need to call for a commercial time out.

Modern radio communications have become a big part of this weekly game ballet. Behind the scenes the NFL Game Day Coordinators are watching and checking to see that all parties inside and outside the stadium have clear channels of communications.

Three Indianapolis Game Day Coordinators brought their game plan to the March MARC meeting. On hand to explain how all the frequencies are coordinated were Al Grossniklaus-WD8BUG, Roger Bishop-KB9EMH and Dave Forte. They explained how the coach communicates with the quarterback, how the officials know when to review a close call and even how the cheerleaders get their cue to fire up the crowd.

Roger Bishop attended Super Bowl 44 as part of their Game Coordination team. He said close to 10,000 frequencies were in use during Miami Super Bowl event. No wonder it took a team of 40 engineers and amateur radio operators to cover all the bases. Roger said he plans to recruit at least 50 Amateur Radio operators to help coordinate frequencies during Super Bowl 46 at Lucas Oil Stadium in 2012. Stay tuned for more on his game plan. -w8ish ■

ARRL Update

ARRL: 04/15/2010

The ARRL is pleased to welcome Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, to the Headquarters staff in Newington. Corey's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as an operational continuity plan, complete with supporting procedures and training. Corey also will play an integral part in the management of ®, and in future negotiations with served agencies with whom ARRL shares or creates .

An Extra class licensee and an ARRL Life Member, Corey comes to the ARRL with almost 20 years of experience with emergency communications. Licensed since 1988, he has been involved with since 1991 and has attended basic and advanced SKYWARN training. He is the author of the ARRL Storm Spotter's Handbook, which was released last month.

Corey comes from a ham family: His grandparents, parents and uncle are all hams. "Corey is married to Elizabeth: "She's not licensed — yet! We're working on that."

After graduating from Indiana University, Corey embarked on a career in law enforcement, working as the Communications Officer for the Howard County Sheriff's Department, where he was responsible for dispatching law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire services and county resources to calls for service, as well as operating and maintaining the logs for the National Crime Information Center. Corey also served a Project Manager for contingency planning for public safety communications. While employed at the Sheriff's Department, he also volunteered at the Kokomo Howard County Emergency Management Agency, serving as a Special Deputy Sheriff, and assisted with emergency management response planning and local disaster response as part of the Emergency Operations Center staff. ■

Officers

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K9DY

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KC9GCH

IRCC Update

IRCC ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 IRCC Technical Excellence Award. Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council selects an outstanding Indiana Amateur Radio Operator who has used their technical expertise to advance amateur radio in their club and community. This individual is not required to be a member of an organized club or organization. We are seeking to acknowledge individuals who have generously given their time and technical expertise to the Amateur Radio community.

Nomination requirements:

- Submit as much detail about this person as possible.
- List the Amateur's call sign, email address and telephone number.
- List your name, call sign and email information

Deadline for nominations is midnight June 13, 2009. The 2009 IRCC Technical Excellence Award will be presented during the Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo July 11th. Submit nominations to: Dennis Gilbey K9JZZ, IRCC Vice Chairman, denisemoel@aol.com

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

Hamfest/Event Info

The **North Central Indiana Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Miami County Road 200 North in Mexico, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 147.345+ (no tone) repeater. For more information contact Robbie Robinson W9RSR via email at w9rsr@comcast.net.

In Indianapolis, the **500 Mini-Marathon** will be held on Saturday, May 8th, the **Geist Half-Marathon** on Saturday, May 22nd, and the **500 Festival Parade** will be held on Saturday, May 29th. Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information on each of these events.

The **South Bend Hamfest**, sponsored by the Michiana Amateur Radio Club, will be held Sunday, May 23 at the Elks Club, 3535 East McKinley Avenue, South Bend, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 147.33+ (PL 131.8) repeater. For more information, contact Jack Styles N9TAG via email at stylesjack1@hotmail.com.

The **White River Township 18th Annual Strawberry Festival** will be held on Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 2010 at the Sugar Grove Elementary School located at 4135 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, Indiana. For more information go to <http://www.wrtfd.org/festival.htm>. MARC will be looking for volunteers for this event. To volunteer, contact Jack Parker W8ISH.

SKYWARN

Linda, KC9GCH, has created a SKYWARN net checklist to track watches, warnings net conditions, participating stations and weather reports. Anyone wanting a copy should e-mail her at PIO@midstatehams.org and she will forward a copy to you. The form is in a pdf format that can be printed.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well as
rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline. This is a
great chance to
meet other local
amateur radio
operators and test
your operating
skills.*

2010 Schedule of Events

APRIL 2010

- 4 Easter**
- 5 SKYWARN Training for Johnson County; 7:00 PM; Open to the Public**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Contact Tug Sutton KC9OQY for more information
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 17 1st Annual "Oh Dark 30" Ham Radio Swap Meet**
Madison Square Plaza (Behind the Bank; in front of the Penske Office) Northwest Corner of Southport Rd & Madison Avenue, Indianapolis, IN
- 18 5th Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest**
Miami County 4H Fairgrounds, Mexiso, IN

MAY 2010

- 1-2 Indiana QSO Party**
Go to <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/> for more information
- 8 Indianapolis Mini-Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 14-15 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH**
- 15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 22 Geist Half-Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 23 South Bend Hamfest, South Bend, IN**
Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN
- 29 500 Festival Parade, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 31 Memorial Day**

JUNE 2010

- 11-12 White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival**
Sugar Grove Elementary School, 4135 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN
- 19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
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Spark Gap

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



Mid State Amateur Radio Club
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Johnson County, IN 46131

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